

Panel Discussion (contd)

1       assessment, because they didn't have the tools  
2       to do that.

3               Dennis Faulk came to me from EPA and  
4       said, how about if we do the B.C. reactor area  
5       and do a comprehensive assessment, look at all  
6       of the waste sites, look at all of the  
7       critters, look at all of the groundwater  
8       issues, and try to do a risk assessment for  
9       that.

10              They made a commitment, Department  
11     of Energy came back and made a commitment to  
12     the public, made a commitment to the Tribes,  
13     that the B.C. risk assessment, comprehensive  
14     risk assessment, pilot project, would be the  
15     starting point for public involvement. And  
16     that they would do this and use that as a  
17     template to then move forward to do other risk  
18     assessments.

19              They moved forward this year to do  
20     an N-Area risk assessment, and we have not been  
21     involved.

22              Now we hear that they want to do a  
23     whole comprehensive risk assessment, when  
24     they've never created the baseline to do the  
25     B.C. reactor area.

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1 I requested a response from each  
2 agency. Not the Tri-Parties. I got a call  
3 from the Department of Energy that refused to  
4 answer the letter. And said we're going to  
5 delay our response required by two weeks. They  
6 delayed it, never responded.

7 I did get a response from U.S. Fish  
8 and Wildlife, and they concurred with exactly  
9 my assessment. They came back and said they  
10 agree and they would like the B.C. reactor  
11 pilot project for everything.

12 Now I get a letter from the  
13 Tri-Parties, coming together, that then molds  
14 all their issues together, instead of getting  
15 an individual response from EPA, an individual  
16 response from the State Department of Ecology  
17 and DOE.

18 So, what Nick says, he's been here  
19 for seven months, and no punn intended, we have  
20 a lot of history, and we have a lot of  
21 commitments that the Department of Energy was  
22 going to do this. They haven't stuck with  
23 their commitment.

24 MR. DEE WILLIS: Let's move  
25 on. Next question. This gentlemen over here,

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1 speak into the mike they I am bringing to you.

2 MR. MIKE ROCKWELL: Thank you.

3 This one is for the officials up there. Mike  
4 Rockwell is my name.

5 How much volume of cleanup -- Well,  
6 let me rephrase that. Is the volume of cleanup  
7 that is planned over the next, let's just say  
8 two years, going to equal the volume of waste  
9 that will be delivered to Hanford over the next  
10 two years? The 70,000 truck loads that are  
11 coming to Hanford in whatever time frame that  
12 is, is there going to be 70,000 truck loads of  
13 cleanup, is there going to be a balanced out  
14 thing.

15 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Nick can  
16 help we me with this. Volume up, there will be  
17 a lot more cleaned up than we will ever get.  
18 What the factor is, I don't know. But it's a  
19 lot more.

20 MR. NICHOLAS CETO: There is a  
21 chart. I don't have the document. But there  
22 is a chart in the document, I don't have it in  
23 front of me but we could probably find it  
24 pretty quickly, that gives the volume of the  
25 different waste streams, what's been disposed

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1 of at Hanford far and what's going to be  
2 managed in the cleanup in the remaining years.

3 And you can look at those bar graphs  
4 and get a feel.

5 Part of the answer, part of the  
6 answer depends on how much comes in from  
7 off-site. Because the range of material coming  
8 in from off-site is very large in that  
9 document.

10 MR. DEE WILLIS: Panel?

11 MR. GREG deBRULER: One other  
12 comment which we didn't really touch on  
13 tonight.

14 When the first draft came out, Mike,  
15 I had the understanding, and actually commented  
16 in Portland and asked you the question, the  
17 initial salvo, we will call it, is 70,000 truck  
18 loads, but in reality it could go much higher  
19 than that in the future with an amendment, and  
20 I asked that question, and you said yes, it  
21 could, it could go higher than 70,000.

22 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: No, not  
23 with an amendment. With a new EIS.

24 MR. GREG deBRULER: Or a  
25 supplement.

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1                   MR. MICHAEL COLLINS:   No.   You  
2   would have to have a new Waste Management PEIS  
3   supplement.

4                   MR. GREG deBRULER:   Because  
5   the concern I have is the 70,000 is what they  
6   have scoped right now.   Of course you have got  
7   104 sites.   How accurate are they?   We did  
8   learn, however, in these transuranic waste  
9   shipments that there was actually 9 percent, of  
10   these 160 barrels that they were shipping, they  
11   actually were off by 9 percent.   There was 9  
12   percent more volume coming in.

13                  So, I am sitting here in 2003  
14   thinking you have got 70,000 truck loads.  
15   Well, is it 80,000?   I don't know.   I mean,  
16   these are rough numbers.   And I don't really  
17   know.   So I will just leave it there.

18                  MR. DEE WILLIS:   Do we have a  
19   follow-up question here?

20                  Go ahead, George.

21                  MR. GEORGE SANDERS:   I was  
22   just going to take another slice at what you  
23   were heading toward with respect to what's  
24   leaving and what's staying and coming.

25                  I use a rule of thumb of, and this

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1 is planned, I won't tell you that this is going  
2 to happen in the next year or two, but it's  
3 what's supposed to happen in our baseline,  
4 we've got about 400 million curies of material  
5 on-site right now. If you take the tanks, the  
6 spent fuel, everything else.

7 MR. DEE WILLIS: Curie? What's  
8 a curie?

9 MR. GEORGE SANDERS: Curies.  
10 That's a measure of radioactivity. It has to  
11 do with how many disintegrations you get any  
12 period of time from a nucleus of an atom. It's  
13 a measure. And we use curies as one of those  
14 measurements.

15 There is 400 million curies that are  
16 on-site. I think we are planning on about 35  
17 million curies of that staying. I think out of  
18 that bunch. I think it's about 35. So, 365  
19 million, give or take a few, are supposed to  
20 leave. And so that's the balance of things.

21 Now, when you break that up in  
22 shipments, right now if you, that 70,000 may be  
23 trucks. I think by the time we are through  
24 with this we will be trying to do some rail  
25 shipments, we will be trying to send things out

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1 in boxes instead of using trucks. So that's  
2 going to cut the shipments down. That's not  
3 interstate highways. That's rail. That has  
4 its own interesting pluses and minuses. But it  
5 will probably be different types of  
6 transportation there.

7 So, you know, that shipment number  
8 can vary. But there's a lot of shipments that  
9 are going to be on the road outbound as well as  
10 some coming in.

11 MR. DEE WILLIS: Follow-up.

12 MR. MIKE ROCKWELL: Again for  
13 the officials here, I would like to introduce  
14 you to my five year old daughter here, Miah.

15 MR. GEORGE SANDERS: Hey, by  
16 the way, she came over to see me a while ago.  
17 She had some stickers. And she gave me one. I  
18 am going to carry it home on my watch. I  
19 really appreciate it. Thank you.

20 MR. MIKE ROCKWELL: All right.  
21 Well, earlier, about an hour ago, we were  
22 discussing the fact that we're not really aware  
23 of how fast the river will be contaminated, and  
24 we had that ongoing discussion a little bit  
25 here, and I asked this question at the last

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 meeting and it wasn't answered, and it was  
2 again asked here, and it seems to be a question  
3 maybe that's unanswerable.

4 But my daughter is going to be  
5 living along the Columbia River for, she is  
6 going to be growing up here, she is going to be  
7 playing in the Columbia River, so it is a real  
8 concern to me.

9 And since this meeting is about  
10 bringing more waste to Hanford, and yet over  
11 the last 15 years of studying this plume that's  
12 going towards the Columbia River, we haven't  
13 figured out when the river is going to be  
14 contaminated so much that she can't safely play  
15 in it. And yet you are bringing more stuff to  
16 Hanford.

17 I mean, if she were your daughter,  
18 wouldn't you be extremely concerned about  
19 bringing more waste to Hanford?

20 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: At the  
21 risk of some one upmanship, I have four  
22 children, including a five-year old daughter,  
23 and I am extremely concerned, because our water  
24 comes six miles downstream from Hanford, in the  
25 Columbia River. We go swimming in it almost

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 every day in the summer. So, yes, I am very  
2 concerned about it.

3 MR. DEE WILLIS: Okay. This  
4 lady, the nurse, I have forgotten your name.

5 MS. JUDY MERRILL: Judy  
6 Merrill. You remember I'm a nurse. Judy  
7 Merrill from The Dalles.

8 I'd like to ask one of the officials  
9 of DOE or EPA, what specifically do you need  
10 from the public, we the citizens, to change  
11 your date of 45 days of the analysis to be  
12 studied? What specifically do you need from  
13 us? Or is it not up for grabs?

14 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: I would  
15 like to leave this one for Greg.

16 MR. GREG deBRULER: Let's let  
17 the EPA do it first and I will give him my  
18 interpretation.

19 MR. NICHOLAS CETO: There is  
20 only one agency that can change that. It's not  
21 us. It's DOE.

22 Ms. JUDY MERRILL: Oh. DOE?

23 MR. NICHOLAS CETO: They are  
24 the ones who are going to have to answer this  
25 question.

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1                   MR. MICHAEL COLLINS:    The  
2    decision is ours, but that's not -- The  
3    decision is ours, but I guess, in my position,  
4    I'm not at liberty to say what kind of  
5    pressures could be put on DOE to change their  
6    mind.

7                   MR. GEORGE SANDERS:    I'm not  
8    going to let Mike take the hit on that one. We  
9    will just talk about that.

10                  The decision makers, and that's a  
11    whole series of senior folks, because you  
12    understand there's a lot of sensitivity here.  
13    I'm just going to be straight up.

14                  MS. JUDY MERRILL:    I'd like  
15    some specific information. I am a citizen, I  
16    have taken time off from work to be here.

17                  MR. GEORGE SANDERS:    All  
18    right. I will tell you, here is the best way  
19    we can do it.

20                  You are in the middle of a public  
21    process. This is a public meeting. I mean, we  
22    have got a court reporter here, this is going  
23    to be documented.

24                  I think what you're doing is the  
25    best thing I can recommend to you. If you feel

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 strongly, and I get the sense that there is a  
2 lot of people that feel strongly about this 45  
3 days.

4 Speak your piece. And believe you  
5 me, we are going to listen to it. We will have  
6 to take your comments, we are going to have to  
7 put a report together. We are going to have to  
8 talk to our senior management. And we will  
9 make it very well known what the comment  
10 packages were.

11 MS. JUDY MERRILL: We only have  
12 45 days.

13 MR. GEORGE SANDERS: I  
14 understand that. And I understand your angst  
15 about that.

16 So my recommendation to you is be  
17 very specific in your comments so that we can  
18 record them, it will get laid out in front of  
19 senior people who will make those decisions,  
20 and we will just go from there. That's all I  
21 can tell you.

22 MR. GREG deBRULER: Two things.  
23 Do you want to go first?

24 MS. AMBER WALDREF: You will  
25 probably say the same thing.

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 MR. GREG deBRULER: No.

2 MS. AMBER WALDREF: Well, i  
3 also want to ask the Department of Energy, you  
4 know, is this a site, an EIS that's based at  
5 the site and that managers at the site can make  
6 this type of decision? Because that's one of  
7 the questions at hand, I think.

8 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: The  
9 approval authority for the Environment Impact  
10 Statement and the decision, the final decision  
11 to extend the comment period would rest with  
12 the manager of Hanford who would be Keith  
13 Klein.

14 MR. GEORGE SANDERS: And I  
15 will tell you this, this is a big deal, an EIS,  
16 it is far reaching, and I don't think it is a  
17 mystery to you that Keith is consulting with  
18 the senior management in DOE on this.

19 So, there is a lot of  
20 collaborations, a lot of discussions about  
21 this. This is a very highly visible activity  
22 back in Washington. So there will be a lot of  
23 consultation. But Mike is right about who has  
24 the authority.

25 MR. DEE WILLIS: Greg.

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1                   MR. GREG deBRULER:    So, names.  
2   Keith Klein is the manager.  You could write  
3   him a nice letter.  Tell him that he's  
4   violating NEPA and you will probably be seeing  
5   him in court.  That might wake him up.

6                   The other thing you could do is  
7   write a letter to the Under Secretary of  
8   Energy, Jessie Roberson, R-o-b-e-r-s-o-n.

9                   Secretary of Energy Abraham, tell  
10   him that you are outraged that the public  
11   outreach process is being violated, that NEPA  
12   is being violated.  That that there is not  
13   adequate time.

14                  And the other guy is Bob Card, is  
15   that his first name, Bob?  Mr. Card, Bob Card.  
16   Bob Card is one of the key people that is  
17   pushing accelerated cleanup.

18                  Now, once you get done writing  
19   those, you could also write a letter to the  
20   CEQ, Counsel of Environmental Quality, to the  
21   Bush Administration, and basically tell them  
22   that the Secretary of Energy and the people  
23   that work for the Department of Energy are  
24   violating NEPA, not giving adequate time for  
25   public involvement, and there are statutes that

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 basically tell them what they have to do to  
2 have adequate public involvement.

3 MR. DEE WILLIS: Greg, would  
4 you repeat those names? I see people writing.

5 MR. GREG deBRULER: Again, for  
6 the Hanford Site it is Keith Klein, K-l-e-i-n,  
7 Keith Klein. He is the manager of the Hanford  
8 Site for Richland.

9 Then the other one is Under  
10 Secretary of Energy Jessie Roberson, and that's  
11 -- pardon me, Assistant Secretary of Energy,  
12 and that is Jessie Roberson, and that's in  
13 Washington, D.C.

14 Afterwards I will give you the  
15 addresses. I actually have them in my brain.  
16 Secretary of Energy Abraham.

17 MR. DEE WILLIS: Spencer.

18 MR. GREG deBRULER: Spencer  
19 Abraham. There we go. And the other one is  
20 Bob Card. And what is his title?

21 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: I have  
22 no idea.

23 MS. AMBER WALDREF: He is  
24 Under Secretary.

25 MR. GREG deBRULER: Is he

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 Under Secretary?  
2 MR. GEORGE SANDERS: I think  
3 so.  
4 MR. GREG deBRULER: He thinks  
5 so. I think he knows, but he doesn't want to  
6 mention names, because he is on the record.  
7 Some DOE official said he thinks so. I'm  
8 having fun, Mr. X.  
9 MR. DEE WILLIS: Go back to  
10 the addresses.  
11 MR. GREG deBRULER: Oh. The  
12 address for Hanford is P.O. Box 550, Richland,  
13 Washington, 99352.  
14 MS. JUDY MERRILL: It's on  
15 the fact sheets.  
16 MR. GREG deBRULER: And for  
17 Jessie Roberson, it's 2000 Independence Avenue  
18 S.W., Washington, D.C., 20055, Washington,  
19 D.C., 20055. That's for the Secretary of  
20 Energy Spencer Abraham, or the Assistant  
21 Secretary Jessie Roberson. And for Mr. Bob  
22 Card, who is Mr. X.  
23 MS. JUDY MERRILL: And their  
24 address again?  
25 MR. GREG deBRULER: 2000

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 Independence Avenue S. W., Washington, D.C.,  
2 20055, I think.

3 MS. JUDY MERRILL: Greg, what  
4 is Bob's last name?

5 MR. GREG deBRULER: Card, like  
6 playing cards. This is a big card game, by  
7 the way.

8 Basically, history, never in the  
9 Tri-Party Agreement have we ever requested,  
10 since 1989, an extension period that was never  
11 granted. It has always been granted.

12 And the reason why I firmly believe  
13 it is not being granted this time is because  
14 Washington, D.C., Headquarters, is telling them  
15 you shall do this by X date because we need to  
16 get a Record of Decision by X date so we can  
17 ship the product by X date.

18 They want to close the sites down by  
19 2006, and they have got to start shipping this  
20 stuff.

21 MS. JUDY MERRILL: My  
22 follow-up. Thank you, Greg, for the specifics.

23 MR. GREG deBRULER: Welcome.

24 MS. JUDY MERRILL: What I would  
25 like to see in The Dalles newspaper, White

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 Salmon, Hood River, Goldendale, is that  
2 specific information.

3 MR. GREG deBRULER: Okay. I  
4 will get it to them tomorrow morning.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where is  
6 the local media here tonight?

7 MR. DEE WILLIS: The question  
8 is, where is the local media.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could  
10 the local media stand up, please?

11 MS. CYNDY deBRULER: You guys  
12 need to call them, too.

13 MR. GREG deBRULER: The local  
14 media couldn't make it. They also knew, you  
15 know, the meeting notices were in the  
16 newspapers, right, so they knew the meeting  
17 was there, but they couldn't come because they  
18 had a bunch of other meetings.

19 So what I did was I took a bunch of  
20 pictures today. Now what I have to do is write  
21 an article for them to get the information so  
22 that they will put an article in the newspaper.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It is  
24 not Hood River.

25 MR. GREG deBRULER: No. The

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1 papers all owned by, basically the same, accept  
2 the Goldendale Sentinel. I will be writing an  
3 article, Cyndy and I will put it together, get  
4 the information out and hopefully the press  
5 will put it in the Saturday paper and then The  
6 Dalles Chronicle and the other papers.

7 Letters to the editors work, but  
8 I'll tell you what, letters to the editor in  
9 the Tri-Cities would make more sense. Tri-City  
10 Herald in the Tri-Cities, write a letter to the  
11 editor about lack of openness and public stuff.

12 MR. DEE WILLIS: Panel, next  
13 question. This lady, and then this gentleman.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nick,  
15 you said EPA fined DOE 76,000. Aren't those  
16 both federal agencies. And if you fine  
17 somebody, who gets the money?

18 MR. NICHOLAS CETO: Yes. We  
19 are both federal agencies. And it goes back to  
20 the treasury. Sometimes I think, and someone  
21 from DOE can verify this, that sometimes the  
22 contractor that misses the work they are  
23 supposed to do ends up paying part of that back  
24 to the government, or not getting a fee or  
25 something.

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1                   So they could probably answer that  
2 question.

3                   But it is a difficult thing when one  
4 agency fines another. But there is the P.R.  
5 value. You know, when a federal agency gets  
6 fined by another one, they don't like the press  
7 they get, and that's as valuable as the money.

8                   MR. GREG deBRULER: And they  
9 don't like explaining it to Congress why they  
10 got that either.

11                  MR. DEE WILLIS: Okay.  
12 Name.

13                  MR. CLAY SMITH: Clay Smith.  
14 I've got a couple of questions.

15                  First of all, Greg, you had some,  
16 they are not really slides, but some film you  
17 showed earlier. I would kind of like to know  
18 where those came from. I mean, --

19                  MR. GREG deBRULER: They came  
20 courtesy of the Department of Energy.

21                  MR. CLAY SMITH: So the  
22 Department of Energy actually did that  
23 evaluation and that was part of their  
24 information?

25                  MR. GREG deBRULER: If you're

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 talking about the risk map for the groundwater?

2 MR. CLAY SMITH: Yeah.

3 MR. GREG deBRULER: That was  
4 actually done by, it was Pacific Northwest  
5 National Labs under contract to the Department  
6 of Energy, actually ran the model that did that  
7 calculation.

8 MR. CLAY SMITH: Okay. So  
9 they are just putting information that they  
10 suppose in a computer and supposedly come out  
11 with a supposed map?

12 MR. GREG deBRULER: They have  
13 seven models that they are using, and to do  
14 that calculation, I think Tom Stoops could  
15 really tell you how they got to these numbers,  
16 because this is Tom Stoops, he's a hydrologist,  
17 he does this kind of stuff, so maybe he wants  
18 to say something.

19 MR. CLAY SMITH: I have a  
20 question about that for Tom also.

21 How big is the aquifer underneath  
22 that area, or is there one? Water travels, you  
23 know, underneath the earth at various levels  
24 and you have aquifers, and then you don't have  
25 any, and some of the earth is porous. So it

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